

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Tanana Valley Farmers Market Association****Project Title:**

Tanana Valley Farmers Market Association - Market Facilities Expansion and Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$ 100,000**House District: 7 - D**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Surface the dirt parking lot with D-1 to reduce dust on products, and make other improvements to the Tanana Valley Farmers Market.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$150,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Other	\$50,000	FY08				
Total	\$50,000					

Explanation of Other Funds:

Vendor space and parking fees, 10% vendor assessment and minor product sales (hats, cookbooks, etc.)

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Tanana Valley Farmers Market is an integral part of the Fairbanks community and a central location for residents of the Interior to buy Alaska Grown products. Its mission is to develop and promote Alaska's agricultural, horticultural, and cottage industries, providing quality produce and products to the public. The Market operates with minimal staff. In 2007, 167 vendors sold approximately \$900,000 worth of produce and crafts during the May-September season, contributing to the income of many Interior families.

The Association is funded through vendor space and parking fees, a 10% vendor assessment and minor product sales (hats, cookbooks, etc.) The Market has partnered with private citizens, organizations, businesses, the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Division of Agriculture to provide some advertising, amenities and improvements.

The Tanana Valley Farmers Market Association raised funds that enabled it to make ADA handicapped access improvements and expand the blacktop for vendor space in FY08. It will use similar internal funds to supplement the state funds provided in this appropriation.

Fairbanks' short construction season makes early funding important.

Project Timeline:

Beginning May-June when the snow is gone, with the goal of completing it before the Market season begins.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Tanana Valley Farmers Market Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: J.R. Anderson, Market Manager

Phone Number: 456-3276

Address: 2600 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No



February 20, 2008

To The Honorable Joe Thomas

The Tanana Valley Farmers Market (TVFM) respectfully requests \$150,000.00 to assist in the expansion and improvement of the Market facilities in Fairbanks at 2600 College Road. Started in the 1970's, the TVFM is the oldest established farmers market in Alaska. Its mission statement is: "to develop and promote Alaska's agriculture, horticultural and cottage industries, providing quality produce, and products to the public". In the early 1980's the state legislature provided \$175,000.00 to a small group of agricultural producers organized as the TVFM to build a farmers market building. In 2007, the TVFM served 167 vendors who provided Alaska grown and Alaska made products for a total of \$932,000 sales to thousands of area wide citizens.

The TVFM recently purchased 5.6 acres for \$400,000 with an outstanding mortgage of \$319,000 and moved the original building to the new property. The Market receives its funding for utilities, land payments, improvements, etc. through vendor space and parking fees, a 10% vendor assessment and minor product sales. (i.e. t-shirts, hats, cookbooks, etc.) 2007 income for the Market was \$123,000. The Market has also partnered with private citizens, organizations, business, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the Division of Agriculture to provide some advertising, amenities and improvements.

Plans for this year include, D-1 surfacing the customer and vendor parking lots. Customer parking is 150ft x 510ft (76,500 sq. ft) Vendor parking is 40,000 sq.ft. On windy days vendors produce and crafts are covered with dust. Also, the construction of an office building. The present office is housed in a not to well insulated construction type trailer.

The TVFM is an integral part of the Fairbanks community and a central location for the Greater Fairbanks area population of buyers to purchase a variety of Alaska Grown products.

Sincerely,

J. R. Anderson
Market Manager